

Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of this application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

The written description has been amended to clarify the disclosure with respect to drawing Figure 1. Claims 1-16 have been canceled and replaced with new claims 17-35. Claims 17-35 are now pending in the application. Claims 17 and 27 are independent. The rejections are respectfully submitted to be obviated in view of the amendments and remarks presented herein. No new matter has been introduced through the foregoing amendments. Entry of each of the amendments is respectfully requested.

Applicants acknowledge with gratitude the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2-9 and 11-16.

The claim 17 feature of "compressing inlet air to the combustion engine" is supported in various places in the description and drawings, e.g., at page 2, line 21; page 4, line 37; and page 5, line 7 (PCT-publication). The claim 17 feature of "passing pressurized flue gases from the combustion engine for treatment in at least one pressurized flue gas condenser, whereby" is supported by Figures 2 and 3 and the accompanying text together with the disclosure of original claim 1.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over DE 19538067 to Foerster. Claims 1 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Foerster in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,366,674 to Eakman.

Each of the rejections is respectfully deemed to be obviated. Neither Foerster alone nor the combination of Foerster and Eakman would have rendered obvious Applicants' presently claimed invention.

The method defined by new claim 17 clearly distinguishes over the disclosure of Foerster. The present invention provides a solution which is far more energy efficient than the method according to Foerster, where the process is carried out at atmospheric pressure. This results in the dew point being 72°C, which in turn approximately corresponds to heat being extracted at a temperature of about 67°C, which is a temperature level that is not usable for more general purposes such as in district heating nets.

In contrast, the present invention makes it possible to raise the dew point level depending on chosen overpressure level. As examples, please see in Fig. 4, the curves representing 3 bar and 5 bar absolute pressures. Hereby heat can be extracted at higher temperature levels, which is a great advantage since the usability thereof will be expanded.

Applicants' invention also gives the possibility of extracting more work from the process, in that the working conditions for the combustion engine will be improved.

Foerster does not disclose that the flue gases are reheated before expansion in a turbine. As a matter of fact, Foerster discloses neither compressing inlet air to the combustion engine, nor passing pressurized flue gases for the treatment in at least one pressurized flue gas condenser. Accordingly, the disclosure of Foerster would not have rendered obvious the presently claimed invention.

Eakman does not rectify the deficiencies of Foerster. Eakman does not disclose that flue gases from a combustion engine are heated before expansion in the turbine. On the contrary, in Eakman's "boiler 18" the exhaust gases are cooled before being expanded, since they are used to heat a medium that is passed on to another turbine. Accordingly, the combined disclosures of Foerster and Eakman would not have rendered obvious the presently claimed invention.

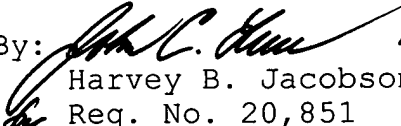
In view of the foregoing, this application is now in condition for allowance. If the examiner believes that an

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interview might expedite prosecution, the examiner is invited to
contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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